

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 /011 W

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P R 231410Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6759

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 3862

STATE FOR CU/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJ: EXCHANGES - INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM

REF: BUCHAREST 3382

1. UNION OF ROMANIAN WRITERS HAS SUBMITTED FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN 1973-74 UNIVERSITY OF IOWA INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM UNDER SECTION I (2) EXCHANGE AGREEMENT: PETRU POPESCU, NOVELIST AND POET; AND ANA BLANDIANA, POETESS. BLANDIANA WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HER HUSBAND, WRITER ROMULUS RUSAN.

2. IN EMBASSY VIEW, POPESCU AND BLANDIANA REPRESENT UNUSUALLY EXCELLENT NOMINATIONS OF SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FROM BOTH ARTISTIC AND POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS. BLANDIANA IS WELL PUBLISHED AND HIGHLY REGARDED POETESS. EMBASSY'S A-276 (OCTOBER 4) PROVIDED BACKGROUND ON POPESCU'S HIGH-LEVEL CONNECTIONS.

3. BOTH EMBASSY AND UNION AWARE THAT POPESCU/BLANDIANA NOMINATIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED NEARLY ONE MONTH AFTER SEPTEMBER 26 BEGINNING OF IOWA PROGRAM. UNION OFFICIALS HAVE ATTRIBUTED DELAY OT "BUREAUCRATIC" PROBLEMS ALTHOUGH IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT POPESCU SELECTION SUBJECT OF SOME CONTROVERSY WITHIN UNION.

4. DIODATA ON BOTH NOMINEES FOLLOWS SOONEST BY CABLE. REQUEST  
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DEPARTMENT CONTACT PAUL ENGLE AND ADVISE EMBASSY REGARDING

ACCEPTANCE THESE NOMINATIONS THIS LATE DATE. UNION MOST ANXIOUS  
THAT POPESCU ARRIVE U.S. PRIOR END OF OCTOBER.

5. BLANDIANA TRAVEL REPRESENTS SPECIAL PROBLEM. SHE HAS MEDICAL  
CERTIFICATION FROM HER PHYSICIAN THAT PRECLUDES AIR TRAVEL.  
EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE THIS MATTER.  
POST WILLING EXPEND SOME ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM OTHER SECTIONS  
CU ALLOCATION TO COVER SURFACE TRAVEL COSTS IN EXCESS OF NORMAL  
AIR-ECONOMY FARE, IF NECESSARY. IN ADDITION, IT WILL BE NECESSARY  
TO PROVIDE BLANDIANA WITH AN ADVANCE ON HER PROGRAM PER DIEM  
TO COVER EXPENSES EN ROUTE. PLEASE ADVISE ALL ASPECTS THIS MATTER.

6. IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME FACTOR, APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE  
ASAP.  
MARTENS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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